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SECRET BONN 17304

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EXDIS

SUBJECT: SALT-TWO AND EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS

REF: BONN 16988

1. SUMMARY. MENNE (FONOFF DIRECTOR, GENERAL/STRATEGIC DISARMAMENT) BRIEFED EMBOFF DEC 19 ON FRG REACTION TO US SALT TWO BRIEFING AND CONCERNING PLANS OF PETRIGNANI GROUP FOR EXPANDED EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS ON SALT. FRG IS GRATIFIED WITH THE GENERALLY RECEPTIVE US ATTITUDE TO EUROPEAN PAPERS, AND HOPES, WITH AID OF THE FORTHCOMING IS PAPER, THAT EUROPEANS WILL ELABORATE FURTHER CONSENSUS WITH US ON POINTS SUCH AS FBS. WHILE MENNE HOPES THE PETRIGNANI GROUP ACTIVITIES WILL DEVELOP A LIFE "INDEPENDENT OF US BRIEFINGS," HE EMPHASIZED THAT, UNLIKE EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE, THE PETRIGNANI GROUP WILL NOT ADOPT GROUP POSITIONS PER SE AND WILL NOT DESIGNATE A SPOKESMAN FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH US WITHIN ALLIANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. MENNE SAID THE GERMANS WERE VERY PLEASED WITH BOTH THE DEC 15 US BRIEFING ON SALT TWO-I AND THE FORTHCOMING WAY AMB FARLEY WELCOMED THE UK, DUTCH AND FRG NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS. SAYING ALL EUROPEAN REPS HAD IN MIND SENATOR JACKSON'S ADVICE TO INTENSIFY THE EUROPEAN ROLE IN THE ALLIED DIA

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GUE ON SALT (BONN 15918), MENNE NOTED THE "RELIEF" WITH WHICH THE EUROPEANS GREETED THE UNDERSTANDING AMERICAN ATTITUDE. HE THOUGHT THE EXPRESSED US WILLINGNESS TO DRAW ON SOME EUROPEAN SUGGESTIONS MET THE ESSENTIAL EUROPEAN CONCERN AT THIS POINT, THEREBY MAKING IT UNNECESSARY NOW TO FACE DIRECTLY THE "RATHER BOLD" SUGGESTIONS OF SPIERENBERG (NETHERLANDS) AND DE STAERKE (BELGIUM) THAT THE US SHOULD SEEK ALLIANCE BLESSING BEFORE TAKING POSITIONS WITH THE USSR ON FBS, ETC., AT THE BILATERAL SALT BARGAINING TABLE.

3. IN MENNE'S VIEW, THE CONTINUED US READINESS TO DEVELOP A CONSENSUS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE ON ISSUES OF DIRECT CONCERN TO THE EUROPEANS SHOULD AVOID THE NEED FOR SUCH CONFRONTATIONS. TO THAT END, SAID MENNE, THE UK, DUTCH AND FRG HAD TABLED INITIAL PAPERS ON SALT TWO, AND THE PETRIGNANI GROUP WOULD INTENSIFY ITS CONSULTATIONS, INDEPENDENT OF MEETINGS HELD ON THE MARGINS OF US SALT BRIEFINGS; (MENNE COMMENTED THAT ADVANCE US PAPERS BEFORE SALT BRIEFINGS FACILITATED THESE EN MARGE MEETINGS).

4. MENNE NOTED THAT, IN SUMMING UP, SYG LUNS HAD DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN THE US PRESENTATION AND THE THREE EUROPEAN NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS, AND HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE IS SHOULD INDICATE BY EARLY JANUARY, AS A FURTHER CONTRIBUTION, WHERE THE "ALLIES" STOOD ON ISSUES OF BASIC IMPORTANCE. ONCE THE IS PAPER IS CIRCULATED, MENNE EXPECTS THE PETRIGNANI GROUP TO FOCUS FURTHER ON A) US PRESENTATIONS, B) EUROPEAN NATIONAL PAPERS AND C) THE IS PAPER.

5. MENNE SAID FARLEY HAD INDICATED THAT US SIDE AGREED WITH SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE VIEWS IN EUROPEAN PAPERS; THE EUROPEANS NEXT WOULD SEEK TO CLARIFY THEIR VIEWS AND EXAMINE ISSUES AND US INTERESTS FURTHER IN AN EFFORT TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE CURRENT ALLIED CONSENSUS. THIS WOULD BE DONE IN THE PETRIGNANI GROUP BUT ALSO IN THE ALLIANCE. WHILE THE FRG IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE IS PAPER SHOULD BE TACKLED AT NATO BY THE COUNCIL OR BY SALT EXPERTS, MENNE SAID THE UK FAVORED TREATING THE TOPIC ON A MORE POLITICAL LEVEL, IN THE COUNCIL; BONN HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROCEDURE. IN ANY EVENT, MENNE EMPHASIZED THAT VISIBLE EFFORTS TO ENHANCE ALLIED CONSENSUS SHOULD

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SATISFY THE BELGIANS AND DUTCH AND DEFUSE FORMER BACKGROUND
TENSIONS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE ON SALT.

6. IN REPLY TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, MENNE SAID THE CHARACTER OF THE PETRIGNANI GROUP IS DISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE, SINCE THE EUROPEAN SALT GROUPING HAS NO FORMAL EXISTENCE, CHARTER OR SPOKESMAN, AND ADOPTS NO FORMAL POSITIONS. HE INDICATED THAT THE BRITISH SO FAR HAVE PROVIDED THE LEAD AND MENNE'S DEPT IN GERMAN FONOFF FOCUSES PRINCIPALLY ON SALT. HE SAID THE DUTCH ARE STILL NEW TO THE SUBJECT; THE BELGIANS LACK COORDINATION BETWEEN THEIR FONOFF, DEFMIN AND NATO DEL; LUXEMBOURG ATTENDS OUT OF COURTESY AND THE FRENCH DO NOT ATTEND; AND PETRIGNANI IS TOO BUSY WITH MBFR THESE DAYS TO GIVE ADEQUATE TIME TO SALT. HENCE, MENNE INDICATED THE HOPE THAT, AS IN MBFR AND NPG AFFAIRS, CLOSE US/UK/FRG CONSULTATIONS WOULD EMERGE AT APPROPRIATE TIMES ON ASPECTS OF SALT.

7. DEPT REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE TO OTHER PETRIGNANI GROUP CAPITALS. XGDS-1 (DCM) CASH

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